

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Claims 6 and 12 are objected to.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the reasons stated in the response with a mailing date of November 30, 2004. However, merely to advance prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7, 8, 10 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to capture the subject matter of originally filed claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7, 8, 10 and 11.

Applicant has amended claims 6 and 12 to be written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Hence, claims 6 and 12 are allowable. Further, Applicant amended claims 3 and 9 to be dependent upon allowable claims 6 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, claims 3, 6, 9 and 12 are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a notice of allowance allowing claims 3, 6, 9 and 12.

CONCLUSION

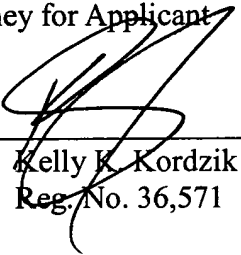
As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicant that claims 3, 6, 9 and 12 in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an allowance of such claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call Applicant's attorney at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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